

October 26, 1999

begun to establish demonstration projects around the country to be conducted over the next three years, which would allow Medicare to reimburse the Department of Defense for the costs of providing military retirees and their dependent health care; this project would allow a limited number of Medicare eligible beneficiaries to enroll in the Department of Defense's TRICARE Prime Program and receive all of their health care under that program.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to reaffirm the necessity in enacting legislation for military retirees health coverage over the age of 65. These individuals are entitled to fair and equitable access of health care. The principle resources for this to be done would be through proper military treatment facilities supplemented with a choice in a network of health care providers. Opening the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, which already applies to retired federal civilian employees, should be offered to uniformed services beneficiaries in order to ensure equitable benefits for all federal employees.

A CONSUMER PROTECTION PROPOSAL

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague and friend, Rep. ANNA ESHOO, in introducing important consumer protection legislation. This legislation addresses the safety of medical devices which are designed to be used once but which are reprocessed for further use.

In correspondence to Rep. ESHOO, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) "agrees that the reuse of disposable medical devices and devices labeled for a single use is a very important public health issue." The agency further indicates that cleaning and sterilizing these devices can be very difficult and that material properties and device performance can be affected by reesterilization. Yet single use device reproducers, which may be companies specializing in this practice or hospitals or other health care facilities, are unregulated. They are not required to register with the FDA or to provide convincing evidence that the processes they use are appropriate and that the reprocessed devices are safe and effective.

Our legislation would correct this loophole in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act by requiring single use device reproducers to register with the FDA and to demonstrate the safety and effectiveness of reprocessed devices. The bill will also require device users to obtain informed patient consent for the use of the device and establish a system whereby the safety and effectiveness of the devices when actually used in patient care may be tracked.

I urge my colleagues to join me supporting this important consumer protection measure.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF
DR. CHARLES STANISLAW

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, a tragic accident in Macedonia October 16 took the life of Dr. Charles Stanislaw, a North Carolina State University agriculture professor and cherished volunteer with the Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance, an international agriculture extension service organization. His passing has been met with an outpouring of love and admiration for his life's contributions.

Charles Stanislaw, 65, grew up on a cattle farm in Pennsylvania, and managed a purebred beef cattle farm for three years before entering graduate school at Penn State University (M.S., 1962) and Oklahoma State University (Ph.D., 1966). Following graduate school, Dr. Stanislaw worked as a state Extension Swine Specialist with North Carolina State University. He developed and delivered educational programs in swine production for county agents in the areas of genetics and breeding, nutrition and feeding, building design, health management, and general production. He also managed the North Carolina Swine Demonstration Farm, supervised swine research units, and served in the National Swine Improvement Federation. Over 40 years of agriculture experience prepared him for his remarkable service in the Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (VOCA).

His work for VOCA in Macedonia and other countries reflected his commitment to service and to improving the lives of farmers around the world. The expertise and care he provided were extremely valuable to the people and places that needed them most. It was clear, as his wife Edythe has expressed, that Charles was doing something very important to him in a country he loved. An extremely popular volunteer, Charles was working on his tenth assignment for VOCA.

His colleagues have described him as a teacher, diplomat, and beloved friend. Upon learning of Dr. Stanislaw's death, those he served in Macedonia came to the VOCA office to express their sympathy and grief. One Macedonian said that her entire farm was based on Charles's work, and in a way was a monument to him.

Dr. Stanislaw had great interest in his Carpatho-Rusyn ancestry, helped establish a website for Porac, Slovakia, the birthplace of his parents, and was presented with the city's flag by the Mayor of Porac. In collaboration with Dr. Jan Babik of Kosice, Slovakia, he was writing a history of Porac. At home in North Carolina, Dr. Stanislaw was presented a Hall of Fame Award by the N.C. Pork Council "in appreciation of outstanding contributions and leadership to the pork industry and the North Carolina Pork Council."

Mr. Speaker, we mourn the passing of Dr. Charles Stanislaw with prayers for his wife, Edythe, two daughters, Christine Lynn and Leigh, their family and his many friends and admirers from Pennsylvania and North Carolina to Slovakia and Macedonia.

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SALUTING THE PUBLIC SERVICE
OF CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER
JOHN MCGUIRE

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask my Colleagues today to join me in recognizing the public service record of one of our own—a recently-retired employee of the House of Representatives, a member of my staff, John McGuire.

Although John has left public service and gone on to another stage of life in which he now focuses his energy entirely on family and friendly pursuits, he has left behind a record of admirable service.

Over the course of his professional career, and in addition to his time on my staff, he has brought great credit to the federal government. He has helped me understand the importance of our debt to veterans and he has excelled at constituent service in general.

A combat U.S. Marine veteran, John was indeed a very special liaison for me with the community of veterans who live in Central New York. But his camaraderie with those who have served our nation never limited his reach. For many in Central New York, John has been the federal government's helping hand.

We who count ourselves among his many friends are proud of his natural tendency to open his door to others in hours of need. His empathy has been matched only by his skills, his concern matched only by his optimism, and his values as an employee matched only by the good he does for others who are his friends.

The United States of America, the greatest country on earth, is strengthened by patriots and civil servants like John McGuire. Thank God for that. I join others of his admirers in recognizing his contributions and thanking him for his selfless dedication to principle and public service.

SUPPORT FOR CUSTOMS OPERATIONS

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a request made by the Texas State Legislature asking that Members of Congress provide funding for infrastructure improvements, more customs inspection lanes and customs officials, and a 24 hour customs operation at border crossing between Texas and Mexico.

Bottlenecks at customs inspection lanes have contributed to traffic congestion at Texas-Mexico border crossing areas slowing the flow of commerce and detracting from the economic potential of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Smuggling of drugs inside truck parts and cargo containers compounds the problem, necessitating lengthy vehicle searches that put

federal customs officials in a crossfire between their mandate to speed the movement of goods and their mandate to reduce the flow of illegal substances.

At the state level, the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts has released a report titled *Bordering the Future*, recommending among other items that U.S. customs inspection facilities at major international border crossings stay open around the clock. At the federal level, the U.S. General Accounting Office is conducting a similar study of border commerce and NAFTA issues, and the U.S. Customs Service is working with a private trade entity to review and analyze the relationship between its inspector numbers and its inspection workload.

Efficiency in the flow of NAFTA commerce requires two federal customs-related funding commitments: (1) improved infrastructure, including additional customs inspection lanes; and (2) a concurrent expansion in customs personnel and customs operating hours.

Section 119 of the Federal Transportation Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), creating the Coordinated Border infrastructure program, serves as a funding source for border area infrastructure improvements and regulatory enhancements.

Domestic profits and income increases in tandem with the exports and imports, generating federal revenue, some portion of which deserves channeling into the customs activity that supports increased international trade.

Texas legislators and businesses, being close to the situation geographically, are acutely aware of the fixes and upgrades that require attention if NAFTA prosperity is truly to live up to the expectations of this state and nation.

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT WREATHLAYING CEREMONY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, I attended the Eighth Annual Wreathlaying Ceremony commemorating the Anniversary of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial's Dedication. Although I have attended these commemorations in the past, this year's ceremony was particularly touching.

Over the course of this decade, our federal, state and local law enforcement officers increasingly have faced dangerous conditions in communities around the Nation. During the 1990s, an average of more than 62,000 officers were assaulted, more than 21,000 were injured and 160 were killed in the line of duty each year. The walls of the Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial are lined with more than 14,000 names, including three of our very own Capitol Police Officers—Officer Jacob J. Chesnut, Detective John Gibson and Officer Christopher Eney.

Every single day, the men and women of law enforcement put their lives on the line to protect and serve large and small communities across this Nation. They risk their lives to make ours safe and secure. Whether as a

border patrol agent, state trooper, or community-oriented police officer, all face the ultimate sacrifice in upholding the laws that serve as the foundation to our democratic form of government.

Below you will find that text of remarks made by Mrs. Shirley Gibson. Mrs. Gibson is the mother of Officer Brian Gibson, one of 160 police officers killed in the line of duty in 1997 and one of three officers from the District of Columbia's Metropolitan Police Department to be killed during a three-month period in that year. Officer Gibson was brutally gunned down outside of a District night club not far from this Chamber.

Since Brian's death almost two years ago, Mrs. Gibson has formed a local chapter of the Concerns of Police Survivors. I salute her efforts to remember Brian and the thousands of other officers that have left behind family and friends while making the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Mrs. Gibson: I feel qualified to stand here today and represent the survivors of each name inscribed on the walls of this beautiful Memorial. I see so much more than names on these walls. I see husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters. I see my son's face. His name was added to these walls two short years ago, along with the names of two fellow Metropolitan Police Department officers, Oliver Smith, Jr. and Robert Johnson, all killed in a span of three months.

640 law enforcement officers' names from the District of Columbia and the Metropolitan area are included in the more than 14,000 names that line these walls.

This Memorial recognizes all law enforcement, whether federal, state or local, and pays tribute to those officers killed in the line of duty. There are no boundaries in the family of law enforcement. The grief, shock, and anger felt that the deaths of U.S. Capitol Police Officer J.J. Chestnut and Detective John Gibson, and the support from MPD and other departments here and around the country, is an example of how law enforcement is truly a family.

To survivors, this is a place that evokes a flood of emotions. I remember seeing my son Brian's name being inscribed on the wall, and the pride I felt mixed with the pain. Pride, knowing that my son was an outstanding officer who was killed during what he loved most, and that his name was being memorialized for all who love him to see and remember. Pain, because I realized that Brian's name would not be the last name inscribed here. Since Brian's death, there have been many more names added, and as much as we pray that there will be no more, we realize that it is inevitable. To those law enforcement officers who diligently continue the job that Brian and the thousands of others here died for, the message this Memorial sends is that you are appreciated, you are needed and you make the world a safer place for law-abiding citizens.

On this, the eighth anniversary of the dedication this Memorial, another message is clearly sent. That message is that the role of Law Enforcement Officers will never be diminished, that the names inscribed here and the names attached to every law enforcement badge, convey the strength, courage, and valor symbolized by the imposing lions with guard the entrance to this Memorial.

The survivors who visit this Memorial find a quiet place of remembrance, dignity and pride. A mother from New York called me a

few weeks after Police Week this year. Her only son had been honored. When she returned home, the desire to come back to the Memorial was so strong, that a few days later she boarded a train to Union Station, got a taxi and came here to simply spend the day looking at her son's name and remembered faces of those who advocated peace. A place where the wind whispers "Always remembered. Never forgotten." A place worthy of the name of those who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty.

God Bless the Gibson Family and God Bless the thousands of families whose loved ones are remembered on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Their tremendous sacrifice will never be forgotten. We will forever be in their debt.

RECOGNITION OF THE NEW LEADERS

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an organization that is vitally important to our society as a whole. The New Leaders is an organization committed to empowering the African American community. Many challenges lie ahead in addressing the concerns of people of color. This organization brings young professionals together to tackle the social, economic, and political problems facing people of color. For five years, this organization used the collective resources of these young professionals to shape public policy.

Using fresh and innovative perspectives that we as policy makers desperately need, this organization has become a part of several youth education and training partnerships. The New Leaders has worked continually to increase African American leadership opportunities and to foster an environment of youth empowerment. As a member of their generation, I realize the importance of looking at our young people as assets and resources.

The New Leaders have made significant strides in this area by designing a leadership development program for middle school students, providing scholarship money to students, and sponsoring the highly successful and effective Take A Youth To Work Day.

Not only are The New Leaders ahead of the curve in advocating youth empowerment, they also support a fair and accurate census. Historically, minorities have been under-counted and The New Leaders are committed to Census 2000 in order to ensure equal representation and ample funding to combat some of the growing concerns in the African American community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our House colleagues to join me in recognizing the efforts and the achievements of The New Leaders. I also submit a position paper presented to The White House by The New Leaders for the RECORD.